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MARSHALL ISLANDS PROGRAM SHIFT TO EH

Enclosed is a copy of that part of the Congressional Record of August 3, 1990, dealing with the subject transfer. This, along with Al Stayman's note to me, is an attempt to clarify what this means from the Senate's point of view.

I believe this captures well both complexities of the Marshall Islands environment within which we work, and the quality of your scientific, medical, and logistical support efforts.

Dr. Robert Goldsmith of DOE Headquarters has been designated, at least for now, as the EH point of contact for the Marshall Islands Programs. I will contact him with the offer to give him and any other interested EH personnel a complete briefing on all elements of our program and begin the process of interaction on policy, budget, and program implementation matters.

Harry U. Brown
Deputy Assistant Manager
for Technical Support

Enclosures:
As stated

cc:
R. R. Ray, Bethesda, MD
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bcc:
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Harry Brown's Files, NV
MI General

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

2-7-90

Horry,

The Marshall's program was shifted to EH by an amendment to the Dept. of Defense authorization bill - see attached. The legislative intent makes it clear that this is only to be a shift in "bosses" not operations personnel, nor is it intended to cast doubt on the science conducted under the program.

Ben and I have met with the DOE head office and - so far - we are confident of DOE's support on this intent. They have indicated that no operational arrangements are expected to change.

I'll be on travel until the 23rd, so feel free to reach me after that.

Allen Stanger

service's philosophy for the fiscal year 1991 budget.

First, we need a revised military strategy. Earlier this year Senator NUNN, in a series of excellent strategy speeches, emphasized the need for "forces that are inherently mobile and rapidly deployable," the need for flexible readiness, and the need for systems with breakthrough or leapfrogging potential. The V-22 meets these criteria and more.

Second, the need to fly-before-buy: The V-22 flight test program is proceeding smoothly, with four of six R&D aircraft flying. Through July 31, 1990, the test aircraft have completed 185 flights and accumulated 190 flight test hours. As substantiated by the most recent flight test summary, which I will ask to have entered in the RECORD following my remarks, I believe that a solid argument can be made for adding advance procurement funds for the first production aircraft in fiscal year 1991. However, in keeping with the fly-before-buy principles, our committee chose to add only development funds for fiscal year 1991.

So Mr. President, I want to thank Senator KENNEDY, chairman of the Projection Forces and Regional Defense Subcommittee, whose amendment proposed adding the R&D funding for the V-22 in fiscal year 1991, and to Senator NUNN and Senator WARNER for their support in keeping this vital program moving forward, including this amendment to continue development of the V-22 SOF variant.

I am hopeful that when this bill goes to conference, procurement money can also be added to retain the V-22 manufacturing base and preserve a viable production option.

Mr. President, I ask that the summary be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the summary was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

V-22 FLIGHT TEST SUMMARY

[Through July 31, 1990]

1. The V-22 Full Scale Development (FSD) flight test program consists of 6 test aircraft. First flight for aircraft 1 occurred March 19, 1989. Aircraft 5 and 6 are scheduled for first flight late Fall 1990.

2. Aircraft 1, 2, 3 and 4 have completed preliminary helicopter flight envelope and conversion to the fixed wing airplane mode.

3. Flight envelope to date:

Forward flight to 280 KTS (Knots) = 322 MPH (Miles per Hour).
Altitude 15,000 ft.

Takeoff and landing at 60 KIAS (Knots Indicated Air Speed).
Taxi at 50 KIAS.

Load factors of 0.5 to 2.3 Gs.
Angle of bank—60 degrees.

Gross weight 37,500 to 45,000 lbs.
Demonstrated single engine flight and aircraft stalls.

4. Aircraft 1 and 3 are conducting Development Test and Evaluation DT&E flights at Bell Helicopter Fort Worth, Texas. Aircraft 2 and 4 are assigned to the Boeing Test Facility in Wilmington, Delaware.

ACFT 1: Flights 79, hours 58.3.

ACFT 2: Flights 70, hours 95.1.

ACFT 3: Flights 10, hours 5.8.

ACFT 4: Flights 26, hours 30.7.

5. Total number of test flights/hours through July 31, 1990: Flight, 185. Flight Test Hours, 189.9.

Mr. President, I strongly support the V-22 program and this amendment to earmark funds for continued investigation of the utility of tilt-rotor aircraft to the vital missions of Special Operations Forces.

The V-22's revolutionary technology will speed Marines into battle twice as far and twice as fast as today. But the aircraft's ability to land like a helicopter also makes it ideal for a wide range of special operations—hostage rescue, counterterrorism, intelligence, and infiltration. This amendment by the distinguished Senator from Ohio [Mr. GLENN] permits the air force to test a variant of the V-22 for these important missions.

Although the administration still wants to cancel the V-22, the Congress is determined to keep it alive. The Senate Armed Services Committee approved \$238 million for continued research and development and noted independent analyses which suggest that the V-22 is potentially more militarily useful than other alternatives under consideration.

The House Armed Services Committee, while cutting defense spending more deeply, nevertheless agreed to add production funds to its authorization bill. That issue will be resolved in conference. And I hope that the Senate conferees will be attentive and sympathetic to the arguments for permitting us to move to production.

We have to build and fly these aircraft to prove without doubt that tilt-rotor technology is safe, reliable, and cost effective. Paper studies won't convince airlines to commit to purchase such radically better aircraft.

But once that proof is in, I foresee a huge market for civil aviation and a welcome boost to American exports abroad. Europe and Japan already acknowledge that they face gridlock at their congested airports. Tilt-rotor Aircraft could solve their problems, as well as some of our own.

Mr. President, the V-22 represents a dramatic advance in aviation and a remarkable opportunity to strengthen our international competitiveness. We should take full advantage of it while we have the lead. For if we hesitate, if we stop with research and development, others will seize the opportunity and reap the benefits.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. President, this amendment by Senator GLENN and others provides research and development funds on the V-22. It has been agreed to on both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, this side supports this amendment very strongly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from Ohio.

The amendment (No. 2560) was agreed to.

Mr. GLENN. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. McCAIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2561

Mr. DIXON. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Illinois [Mr. DIXON], for Mr. JOHNSTON, (for himself, Mr. McCURE, and Mr. GLENN), proposes an amendment numbered 2561.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place in the bill insert the following:

SEC. . RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOR MEDICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.

Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, all responsibilities of the Secretary of Energy for, and all activities currently underway at the Department of Energy with respect to, medical and environmental programs applicable in the Republic of the Marshall Islands shall be managed, controlled and conducted through the Office of Environment, Safety and Health of the Department of Energy.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, this amendment is intended to transfer the Northern Marshall Islands program of the Department of Energy's Defense Programs to the Office of Environment, Safety and Health [EH]. I am reluctant to support this transfer without a more complete review of its implications, and without the benefit of conclusions from the National Academy of Science's ongoing review of important program activities. However, my colleague from Ohio is committed to a decision on this issue at this time.

This amendment is not intended to suggest that any operational changes are needed in the existing program. It is merely a transfer to consolidate management responsibility for the health and epidemiologic related activities of the Department. It is also specifically not intended to cast any doubt on the scientific or medical findings of the current program.

The Marshall Islands program is a controversial program. It is responsible for monitoring the health and environment of the people and islands affected by United States' nuclear testing that occurred in the Northern Marshall Islands in the 1940's and 1950's.

Re-establishing trust between DOE and the People of the Marshall Islands has taken years of work by the personnel of this program. After these years of commitment, DOE's scientists

and doctors have gained a significant measure of trust from many of the people of the Marshall Islands. In fact, it is fair to say that the DOE program personnel now have the confidence of the national government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and of the people of the nuclear affected atolls of Bikini and Enewetak. Thus, it is important that the transfer made by this amendment not disrupt the operations of this program nor damage the fragile goodwill that has been built. Significant shifts in policy direction of this program could not only threaten the effectiveness of this program, but could potentially threaten our relations with the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

I wrote to Secretary Watkins on May 23, 1990, seeking a delay in this transfer, which the initiated several weeks ago, to allow time to get his assurance that the personnel essential to the continuity of this program would not be replaced, nor would they have their activities disrupted. He wrote in reply that this was merely "management consolidation", and I appreciate his clarification.

I have followed this program and our relations with the Marshall Islands since coming to the Senate in 1972. For the past several years I have specifically guided the policy by language in the Energy and Water Appropriations legislation. I do not want to see those years of effort destroyed by a poorly considered transfer.

What my concern is, and why I think assurances regarding this transfer are needed, is that there are those who are seeking to disrupt our relations with the Marshall Islands, and are seeking to undermine the broad legal settlement reached between the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the United States on nuclear claims under the Compact of Free Association.

I was willing 5 years ago to question DOE's claims. Therefore, I supported a requirement in the Compact of Free Association Act that DOE's data be reviewed by an independent scientist. That scientist supported DOE's conclusions about the habitability of these islands. In fact, he has stated that, because of new methods and understanding, the best current estimate of the radiological dose is about half of what DOE calculated in 1982. This would be about 1.2 rem over 30 years, or less than one-quarter of the safety guideline of 5 rem.

Mr. President, I have become convinced that DOE is on the right track and believe that the people of the Marshall Islands should thoughtfully consider these facts. These new findings also explain my interest in seeing that this amendment should not be interpreted as casting any doubt upon the DOE program, nor should it suggest that there is any need to alter any operational aspects of the program.

I wish to thank my colleague from Ohio, Senator GLENN, for his under-

standing of my concerns in this matter. I also want to thank my colleague on the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Senator McCURE, for contributing to this amendment.

I would like to engage my distinguished colleague from Ohio, Senator GLENN, in a colloquy.

Mr. GLENN. I would be happy to entertain such a colloquy.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Would the Senator from Ohio agree that the intent of this amendment respecting the Marshall Islands medical and environmental programs deals solely with the administrative process within the Department of Energy?

Mr. GLENN. I would agree. This amendment solely addresses the issue of management consolidation. What this means is that the management responsibility for the Marshall Islands medical and environmental programs will be exercised and managed through the Office of Environment, Safety and Health, which is what Secretary Watkins has already proposed.

Questions have been raised, and concerns expressed that Secretary Watkins' decision and this amendment, would lead to the substitution or replacement of the existing scientific and medical personnel, and support, provided by or through various DOE offices, and the national laboratories. This amendment is not intended to imply that the medical and environmental operation activities relating to the Marshall Islands should be altered, nor is it intended to be interpreted as an indication of any need for changes within the current program.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I thank the Senator from Ohio.

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

Mr. McCURE. I would like to discuss the intent of the amendment we are proposing. Like the Senator, I believe that there is no reason to change in any way Department of Energy medical and environmental programs for the Marshall Islands. The present program management and the present program execution are sound. Notwithstanding this fact, the Secretary of Energy's overall reorganization of health and safety matters at the Department has swept the Marshall Islands programs along. There has been a change of management within DOE from the Office of Defense Programs to the Office of Environment, Safety and Health.

Mr. JOHNSTON. The Senator is correct. Our amendment will ensure that the activities currently underway with respect to the Marshall Islands will not be disrupted by this reorganization. Our amendment provides that the activities for the Marshall Islands formerly conducted through the Office of Defense programs will continue, with the only difference being that in the future these activities will be conducted through the Office of Environment, Safety and Health. The

point of our amendment is to guarantee this continuity.

Mr. McCURE. Exactly. The intent of this amendment is to preserve the credibility, expertise, and experience that has been acquired over years of work by DOE and its laboratory personnel with the Marshallese. It would be a tragedy if these hard-won assets were lost in a bureaucratic shuffle. I do not think this was the Secretary's intent in the reorganization, but this amendment eliminates the possibility of any bureaucratic mischief.

Mr. JOHNSTON. And it is important to retain this credibility and expertise and to use it in furtherance of these programs. There continues to be important work to do in these islands. There are complex scientific and social issues to resolve, and their resolution is well underway. Some would set up obstacles to resolving these issues, in some cases because they do not understand the science, and in others because they hope to profit from this misunderstanding. The Senator and I know that DOE's science is sound. This science has passed independent review and the test of the scientific marketplace.

Mr. McCURE. Correct. That is no reason to doubt this science, which has passed the toughest peer review, that of the scientific community. Our amendment makes this quite clear. There is no dissatisfaction on my part with the conclusions DOE scientists have reached or with the way in which the Department has been carrying out its responsibilities to this time. There is no expectation of dissatisfaction for the future.

Mr. JOHNSTON. The Senator states my own views exactly.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. President, this is an amendment which has been cleared on both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate? If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 2561) was agreed to.

Mr. McCAIN. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. DIXON. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2562

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk. This amendment, on behalf of Senator GORE and Senator WARNER, has been accepted by both sides. I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. McCAIN), for Mr. GORE (for himself and Mr. WARNER), proposes an amendment numbered 2562.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.